

# **Congress of the United States**

Washington, DC 20515

## **TESTIMONY OF HOUSE SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DONALD MANZULLO BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION ON THE COMMITTEE FUNDING RESOLUTION**

**MARCH 7, 2001**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee on House Administration, I am pleased to testify in support of our funding request to cover the expenses of legislative initiatives, studies, technical upgrades, and investigations of the Committee on Small Business for 2001 and 2002 in the amounts of \$2,312,344.00 and \$2,486,439.00, respectively.

This Committee will be working on critical issues impacting small business. The Committee will continue its role as advocate, ensuring that small business interests are defined and taken into consideration during all stages of the development of public policy and legislative initiatives. The Committee will focus on tax relief for small business, review the regulatory burdens on small business, and continue its oversight role of Small Business Administration programs. In addition, the Committee plans to look at other critical issues, including, but not limited to, contract bundling, small business access to capital, and the need to renew our disadvantaged communities through increasing entrepreneurial opportunities. Despite our increased legislative pace and our aggressive agenda, our budget represents a serious effort to keep Committee spending in line without compromising our mission. As in previous years, the Minority's requests have been incorporated into the Committee's budget proposal.

The Committee has a history of bipartisan cooperation, a tradition that I fully intend to continue. The Committee has passed its rules and oversight plan. Since Republicans gained the majority, the Minority has received one-third of the Committee staff slots and control over one-third of the personnel budget. I intend to maintain these ratios during the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress. By comparison, during the 103<sup>rd</sup> Congress the Minority, then the Republicans, received 22 percent in 1993 and 25 percent in 1994. Of the Majority staff positions, three are administrative and non-partisan in nature: the Chief Clerk who handles hearing arrangements and the committee calendar; the Finance Clerk who looks after all committee finances; and the Print/Web Manager who oversees the maintenance of the Committee web site and the posting of hearing transcripts, testimony, and rules on the site. Unlike some other committees, we count these positions against the Majority's staff allocation. As in the past, the Committee will see that the resource needs of the Minority are met and, in fact, has requested in this budget funding to upgrade or replace equipment used by the Minority.

Like my predecessor, I intend to run the Committee in a fiscally responsible manner and ensure that resources are available to support the Committee's mission. The Committee

has made a conscious effort to upgrade and budget for the needs of both the Majority and Minority. We want to ensure that the actions and resources of the Committee are readily accessible to the small business community. We will do this by purchasing the necessary computer equipment to keep pace with technological developments; sending the much requested Small Business Community Newsletter via e-mail to interested small businesses throughout the country; updating and maintaining the Small Business web site with hearings, testimony, and other pertinent small business information; equipping the hearing rooms with the ability to broadcast live hearings over the internet; and upgrading the antiquated audio system in our committee room in the Cannon House Office Building. It is my intention with this budget proposal to allow for the upgrades and purchases of new computer equipment during the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress to bring the committee closer to contemporary standards.

Our 107<sup>th</sup> Congress Committee budget reflects the projected workload as described in the Oversight Report, and has always been sensitive to and supportive of Minority access to resources allocated to the Committee. This Committee, regardless of which party has held the majority, has a long history of bipartisan cooperation, and I fully expect that to continue through the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Thank you.